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What we have seen, though, is the external appeals process backed up with the right to go to the courthouse means that they settle those appeals.

In Texas, we are finding that over 50 percent of the appeals are being found in the patient's favor. In other words, the decision-maker, the insurance company, whoever made that decision was wrong over 50 percent of the time. And that is what is wrong with the current system.

I do not want lawyers to get rich. They want health care. The people want health care. That is what they are doing. And in Texas, with 2 years' experience, that is what is happening, strong external appeals backed up with a judicial review that they do not want to go to neither the insurance companies nor the patients.

We have that in the Norwood/Dingell bill, and that is why it is so important. Medical necessity, external appeals, access to specialists, emergency care, but also backed up with an accountability system.

If Wal-Mart can be sued for a slip-and-fall in State courts, why should their employees not be able to go to State courts?

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO QUIT PLAYING PARTISAN POLITICS WITH AMERICA'S SCHOOL- CHILDREN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk about health care here this morning. And health care is very important. Education is pretty important, too.

I think it is time for the President and his liberal Democratic friends here in the House to quit playing partisan politics with American schoolchildren and with their schools. They spend so much time distorting the Republican record on education spending that they fail to acknowledge that spending is not the only issue.

We all believe that education funding is important. The difference lies in how we want that money to be spent. Liberal Democrats want it to be spent on more big government programs. It does not matter to them if the programs work or not as long as they can make themselves believe that they are helping kids.

I would rather see education dollars go directly to the classroom where it can be spent by people who know other children's names. They could spend it on books or chalk or computer equipment or whatever else they need to teach their students. This is a whole lot better than spending it on reams of bureaucratic paperwork.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MAN- AGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to challenge all of my colleagues, Democrats, Republicans, Independent, to pass legislation that would provide all Americans with the health care protections they need and deserve.

It concerns me that patients from my district are being denied the health coverage they need to lead productive lives. It seems that I cannot pick up the Beaumont Enterprise or Texas City Sun without reading about someone who was denied care because some insurance company decided that a procedure was not necessary. It has even happened to my own daughter, Stephanie.

It is one thing to keep costs down, but it cannot be done at the patient's expense. That is why I support the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999.

I am confident that this bill will give residents of Hotel Beaumont, a senior citizens community in the heart of my hometown, the right to choose a specialist and see the same doctor throughout treatment.

It is time for us to put our money where our mouth is. Let us prove to the American people that this Congress can work together to address issues that they really care about. Let us pass H.R. 2723.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, this morning I rise to simply say that the people in the 8th District of North Carolina care about access, they care about quality, they care about affordability. That is what we on our side of the aisle care about this morning. We want to provide that.

The language that some of my liberal friends use may be good politics, but it is bad medicine for the people in the 8th District. Support the bill that gives access, that gives affordability, and give quality to the people of America. Support Boehner. Support Shadegg/Coburn.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, as a family doctor in Arkansas for 20 years, I am well aware that doctors and nurses do not know everything about health policy. But one thing I do know is that, in a doctor's office in America today, arguments and shouting

matches with insurance companies occur on a regular basis.

Let me tell my colleagues about one example. I saw a patient with depression; and as part of the treatment, I thought they needed counseling. How do I obtain counseling? I took the patient into a room, gave them an 800 number to their insurance company, and they had to call an anonymous voice on the phone who made the decision about whether they would get counseling and for how many sessions.

This is wrong. If anonymous voices working for insurance companies at the end of a phone make medical decisions, they should be held just as accountable under State law as doctors and nurses.

Pass Norwood-Dingell.

REPUBLICANS ENDING 30-YEAR RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Madam Speaker, Republicans here in the House are doing the right thing for seniors, the right thing for our children, and the right thing for every American who hopes to retire. We have walled off Social Security and placed it in a secure lockbox. We are ending the 30-year raid on Social Security.

Now we need our colleagues in the Senate to do the same thing: Take up the lockbox legislation, follow our lead, and do what is right for our parents, our children, and for the next generation of Americans.

The American people deserve to know who is serious about protecting and saving Social Security. We need the lockbox legislation passed in the Senate and signed into law by the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The Chair must remind all Members not to suggest actions to be taken by the Senate.

MANAGED CARE REFORM: A MAT- TER OF VALUE, ETHICS AND PRIORITIES

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, the issue before the House today is a complex one, but the answer is fairly simple. We are being given a forced choice today. We can either choose to put medical care back into the hands of physicians and patients, or we can allow those medical decisions to remain in the hands of insurance bureaucrats.

All across America today, citizens are being harmed and I believe are losing their lives because we have allowed